Stanleya glauca latifolia

Tall, robust, with pale green somewhat ribbed but not angular stems; cauline leaves light green, thick, glaucous, with a bloom, entirely glabrous, broad-lanceolate, entire, with thick well developed narrowly winged petioles, which on large leaves are not so long as half the width (45 mm.) of blade. Flowers in the usual racemes, bright canary-yellow, becoming orange in fading; sepals about 12 mm. long, narrow, parallel-sided; petals about 11 mm long, of which 4 mm. is the lanceolate blade; claw hairy on inner face; filaments perfectly glabrous; pods long-stipitate, arcuate.

Edith, Kansas, May, 1920 (*Rowena Kesler*).

Type in U. S. National Museum; part of same in New York Botanical Garden.

T. D. A. Cockerell

REVIEWS

Henry and Flood's The Douglas Firs*

The Douglas spruce has always been regarded as a variable species and many have wondered if not more than one species have been included under that name. It is therefore very interesting to know that this problem has been taken up lately and been attacked from more than one standpoint, the gross anatomy of the branches, leaves and fruit, but a comparison has also been made as to the difference in odor, minute anatomy of the leaves and chemical composition of the oil distilled from the leaves.

The authors admit three species and one variety native to North America and four species native to China and Japan. The North American species, which interest us most, are distinguished as follows:

"1. *P. Douglasii* Carrièrre. Pacific coast region of North America. Branchlets pubescent. Leaves thin, flat beneath, with pineapple odor. Cones 3 to 4 inches long, with straight erect bracts.

"var. *caesia* Schwerin. Northern Rocky Mountains. This differs from the type in the glabrous branchlets, the thicker needles and smaller cones, 2½ inches long.

* Augustine Henry and Margaret G. Flood, Proc. Royal Irish Acad. 35: Sect. B: 67–92. *pl. 12–14.* My 1920.

"2. *P. glauca* Mayr. Rocky Mountains, Colorado to Mexico. Branchlets variable in pubescence, often glaucous. Leaves thick, rounded beneath, with strong turpentine odor. Cones 2 to 3 inches long, with reflexed bracts.

"3. *P. macrocarpa* Mayr. Southern California. Branchlets variable in pubescence. Leaves thin, flat beneath, ending in a cartilaginous point. Cones very large, 3½ to 7 inches long, with erect straight bracts."

Of these *P. macrocarpa* has generally been admitted as a good species. The Pacific coast tree, *P. Douglasii* or *P. mucronata* proper, as far as it is represented in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden, holds its characters very well. It may be added that the bracts are comparatively longer and narrower than in the Rocky Mountain species so that the lateral lobes extend to or beyond the cone scales. All our specimens from Eastern British Columbia, northern Idaho, northwestern Montana and southeastern Washington agree with var. *caesia,* but those of the Blue Mountain region of Oregon are variable, the cones and their bracts mostly as in the variety, but the cones in some are somewhat larger and the twigs somewhat pubescent in others. Our specimens from southern Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico agree with *P. glauca,* the branches being mostly more or less pubescent, though in a few practically glabrous. In three specimens from New Mexico and Arizona, the bracts are not reflexed, but unfortunately all these are rather young, and the bracts may not become reflexed except in age. In the Yellowstone Park and northern Wyoming, the var. *caesia* and *P. glauca* seem to be mixed and intergrading. To the reviewer it seems as if the West Coast tree, *P. mucronata* were rather distinct, but that the var. *caesia* were more related to *P. glauca* than to *P. mucronata.* The authors do not mention anything concerning the odor of the leaves of the var. *caesia* nor of the composition of its oil. To the reviewer it seems more logical to regard even this as a distinct species or else regard all three as geographical varieties of one. A fourth species or variety may be represented by the specimens

collected in south central Mexico, at Moran, Mexico, by Hartweg and at Real del Monte, Hidalgo, by Ehrenberg.

P. A. Rydberg

Pellett's American Honey Plants*

Coming at a time when the earth's entire population is experiencing considerable anxiety over the sugar famine and our attention is naturally directed to logical substitutes for sweets and their source, this book on American Honey Plants has a peculiar and timely interest.

The 800,000 beekeepers of the United States are fortunate in having as one of their number a man possessing the combination of a thorough knowledge of apiculture and of nectar-producing and pollen-producing plants. This happy combination has made possible a convenient and exhaustive reference book. The approximately 900 plants in many genera, described as of some value because of nectar or pollen production are arranged alphabetically by common names with numerous cross references, Latin names accompanying the vernacular.

Frank Stoll

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

March 9, 1920

The first meeting of the Club for March was held at the American Museum of Natural History.

President Richards presided. There were 18 persons present.

No business was transacted.

Dr. W. A. Setchell of the University of California gave an illustrated paper on "Aboriginal Tobaccos."

The various species of *Nicotiana* used by the tribes of American Indians were discussed. Different methods of smoking were and still are in use, but in all cases the leaves of the plant is the portion used. Evidence suggests the use of as many as fourteen

* Pellett, Frank C., American Honey Plants, together with those which are of special value to the beekeeper as sources of pollen. Pp. 1–297 + figs. 1–155. Published by American Bee Journal, Hamilton, Ill., 1920.